

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
December 4, 2017
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Paradis.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES of PUBLIC HEARING Fiscal Year 2017/2018 budget for the City of Somersworth.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously

MINUTES of the CITY COUNCIL MEETING held on November 6, 2017

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Richard Gagnon, spoke about an issue that transpired regarding the raising of the Atheist flag. He wanted to thank the City for their support.

COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Witham would like to add to the agenda item other C, regarding the proposed improvements to WWTF as presented by Wright Pierce Engineers. There are no objections from the Council.

Councilor Soldati debated on whether to make a comment. Since our last Council meeting something historic has happened in this Country, the 'Me Too' movement has come to light. She bravely shared that she as a child was molested, sexually assaulted as a middle schooler and by an orthodontist and inappropriate sexual innuendoes by a Priest at St. Thomas Aquinas. She feels that this is wonderful that men are listening and are hearing us as Women; she believes that the country has come a long way. Women know the difference between flirting and being treated in a sexually inappropriate way. Tells City employees, School employees and women out there that have been silent she would encourage them to come forward. She also would also like to thank the citizens of Somersworth for supporting her.

Councilor Paradis wished good luck to Edward Levasseur and Kenneth Vincent, two new Councilors. Paradis shared that she is not returning due to her Dad being sick and is taking in her parents due to illness. She started as a care taker within this City and will continue to do so. She has been proud to serve this community. She echoed what

Councilor Soldati said as well regarding the 'Me Too' movement. It is no secret she has talked to the newspapers, NH Senate, NH House, Mayor and anyone that would listen. She thought it was funny when a former candidate in the previous race said that she was deceitful. She responded with "I am anything but deceitful." She says what she means and means what she says, whether you hate me, think that I am a radical feminist, vegetarian, Atheist, and 'Me Too' as well throughout her lifetime. We have had the Community programs come forward to get funds from the City Council for different services they provide, such as sexual assault support services now known as Haven. When they came to the Council the last couple of times talking about the numbers of 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 6 men were abused. When she looked around the room knowing everyone there and seeing that those numbers were accurate, except the numbers for women were more prevalent. She would also encourage anyone that has been in a situation to please come forward and tell someone and keep telling someone until the abuse or harassment stops. She thanked everyone and said she looks forward to serving again at some other point in her life.

Mayor Hilliard invited Councilor Paradis and Councilor Soldati to the front of the room. He thanked them on behalf of the City of Somersworth for their dedicated service and love for the Community. The Mayor presented each with a gift and well wishes for their future.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter received from Jeanette Gagne resigned from Ward 4 Supervisor. Letter is on file.

Letter received from John T Kennedy resigned from an alternate member of the zoning board. Letter is on file.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

A presentation by Steve McKenzie, Chairman of Mayor's Drug Abuse Task force and Rev. Mark Rideout, from Somersworth Prevention Coalition, would like to take a tag team approach to the opioid epidemic. They would like to merge the Mayor's Drug Abuse Task Force and the Prevention Coalition. Each spoke about the steps from treatment and recovery to eventually prevention; they do believe that it takes a Community to do the work. Chairman McKenzie expressed that both organizations help to raise awareness within the Community.

With no objection from Council agenda item Other B has been moved out of order to speak to Chinburg regarding Resolution No. 25-17 Purchase & Sales Agreement with Chinburg Properties for the Re-use of the Former Hilltop Elementary School Property.

Manager Belmore stated that he asked the Mayor to place this on the agenda to allow for Eric Chinburg to speak to Council and answer questions if the Council chooses to suspend rules. Eric Chinburg has requested to move forward with the deeding of the property to Chinburg Properties, due to some changes or potential changes happening in

regards to federal legislation regarding historic tax credits. Manager Belmore would also like to provide some additional information to be completely transparent that when the Council passed this Resolution that it was planned to have 30 market rate apartments. Chinburg may still financially be able to offer those 30 market rate apartments and civic space. Chinburg did convey that he may be looking now at more of a mixture development of some apartments, artist lofts, artist studios and some business type offices. Or he may have to morph the project into a more business type use to make it more financially feasible. A 79E application has already been approved for Chinburg properties to move forward in regards to tax relief at a local level. At this point he is not asking for any zoning relief and he is prepared to follow all current ordinances and guidelines.

Councilor Witham thanked Manager Belmore for pointing out that Chinburg will stay within the parameters of the Historic Overlay District.

Councilor Sprague questioned deeding the property over to Chinburg early because of the snafu in Washington, without site plans. If they can't get zoning for individual apartments they may need to go with small business use, if that is not passed then what happens to the property, does it sit dormant again. This is the first time he has heard about a business aspect brought up in the planning for the former Hilltop School, he is not one that would be inclined to support that at all.

Manager Belmore responds that if zoning is not approved that Chinburg could sell it back to the City for same dollar amount.

Councilor Sprague asked if developer would pay legal fees as well, if the site plans didn't pass. He feels that parking spots for small business offices will take over, the once mentioned green space.

Councilor Messier commented he would like to see something done to the building. Potentially, a business may only be renting a spot for small office space. Whether it is a person renting an apartment or a lawyer renting an office space what is the difference. The plan is not to rent it out to a large business, just wants to rent to small business office spaces.

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Dumont made a motion to suspend rules to allow for Chinburg to take questions from the Council. Motion passes 9-0

Councilor McCallion stated that he has been in Committee meetings with Mr. Chinburg and he has answered every question and felt that this was a perfect time to ask Mr. Chinburg questions.

Eric Chinburg stepped up to the podium. He stated that he was not expecting this to happen, that there is a grandfather clause that states if the entity has owned the property in 2017 than they would qualify for the tax credit relief. His request is to accelerate the closing before approvals; he reiterates that if it is not owned by the end of the year then this project will not work. He also requests to modify the purchase and sales agreement to

say we will do whatever the zone allows, if the sale is made. He compared this project to a relatively new project done in Dover, NH, where it is filled with many different types of small businesses. It has been successful and popular.

Councilor Witham stated that we have fairly robust zoning regulations that this body adopts. We have the mechanics to afford us the protections for the sensitive neighborhood. He gets that it is a sensitive neighborhood but so are the abutters to Wal-Mart area and the Route 108 area. He has one fear that the building will sit vacant.

Councilor Dumont is open to residential housing or pop up business offices. With understanding to the current environment he feels that we continue with the support of moving the sale date up. He would support this action.

Councilor Paradis agrees with Councilor Dumont. She is not expecting a cigarette rolling company to come in and occupy the building.

Councilor Sprague asked if a yoga studio would be allowed, not sure if it is allowed in the zoning but that would allow for 8-10 people to attend a class at one time that leads to parking being an issue. What about putting Chinburg on the deed with the City, then after a plan is proposed and it passes we can do a quick claim deed. Chinburg answered that he is okay with deeding the property back at no cost to the City if the zoning doesn't pass.

Councilor Soldati stated that Chinburg has a long history in this City. She is going to trust him and supports him to move forward.

Councilor Pepin asked a question to Chinburg. In your experience under previous buildings have you seen an increase in parking spaces over business vs residential? Do you have figures? Chinburg responds that they are the same. Councilor Pepin thinks something needs to happen with the building as soon as possible.

Councilor Cameron feels building will sit and sit if we don't do anything. She is supporting the action.

Councilor Witham made a motion to allow the City Manager to modify the terms to the purchase and sales agreement as originally agreed to by the Council to Chinburg Properties with the provision of a buy back clause that if the developer cannot proceed with the project the developer will sell the property back to the City at no cost to the City, seconded by Councilor Soldati.

Councilor Sprague stated he will not support this, that this is not the original agreement. There has been no public hearing and people who live up on the hill have not had a chance to allow their voices to be heard.

Councilor Witham stated that he is struggling to find a time when a public hearing had anybody there to speak. At times he wishes he had a cricket sound on his phone because that is what some of the public hearings are like. He felt there have been times for the public to speak about zoning.

Councilor Messier stated the public will have a chance to have their say. He would like something to get done. Let's allow a process to move forward.

Councilor Dumont supports the motion. He hears a lot regarding parking issues in Somersworth; he has never heard a community more than Somersworth talk about a parking problem. People in Portsmouth will hunt for a parking spot, walk and pay extra to find one. The new Great Falls reception place and parking their parking was brought up as an example.

Councilor Sprague stated that there is parking on one side of street currently. He suggested that City Staff and Council drive up on those hills and see why parking is an issue. Fire trucks are not able to get through if people are parked on both sides of the streets. The streets on the hill are already narrow; there are issues with people trying to get into their driveway. Fire trucks are not able to get through if people are parked on both sides of the streets. If this facility is made into businesses where are they going to park, that is the point he is trying to make especially when snow is added to the problem.

Motion passed 8-1 by roll call vote, Councilor Sprague opposing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting Monday December 4th, 2017

- Thank you to all members of the community who executed your most sacred right in democracy, your right to vote. While the turnout was low, I am pleased with the citizens who adhered to their responsibility and casted their ballot in the Municipal Election, allowing for their voice to be heard. As we move forward in January with the new City Council and I begin my third term, I will be empowering the government operations committee to explore all methods of ensuring voting within Somersworth is convenient and continues to encourage citizens of our community to participate. Democracy is a participatory system; sitting on the sidelines deteriorates the foundation of the base which keeps us free.

As a community we must continue to model the values which ensure our free nation will progress forward, this starts with voting. As elected officials we must periodically examine the system we have in place, and modernize it when necessary to meet the needs of the electorate. I look forward to beginning this conversation in January and the ideas, suggestions and solutions which will be generated from it.

I had the pleasure and honor of delivering the officially city remarks at the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the American Legion Post 69 on Veterans Day.

The strength of a community is proven by the dedication and commitment of its citizens. Each day that commitment is reinforced through the service of our veterans, yet we must honor their dedication through contributing as well. A community's growth, strength and

defense don't lie in the hands of those who are only veterans, nor does the responsibility of honoring our brave freedom fighters end with two gathering twice a year.

To build a community, to continue to offer the hope that this nation was founded upon, to continue to spread the Hilltopper Spirit, to continue to pay tribute to our veterans, we must all become practitioners of citizenship.

Each day, as bright as the first light, the commitment of the American Veteran is reaffirmed. Each day reaffirm our commitment to them, by continuing to keep the American promise a hope and reality for all. Each day reaffirm our commitment to them by reaffirming our commitment to building a community and home.

- A special thank you, to the Somersworth Professional Fire Fighters Local 2320 for their recent donation of coats, and helping to ensure that all young Hilltoppers will remain warm throughout the winter months.

- I had the pleasure of recently sponsoring the first successful gathering of nonprofits in the city of Somersworth. The spirit of the meeting was to search for ways that community based organizations can continue to support and promote each other's mission. The meeting was highly successful with develop plans in plan for future meetings and creations of a centralized webpage which will promote all non-profits in the community and promote their events. I look forward to continue the conversation at the next meeting scheduled for the end of winter, and utilizing the Hilltoppers approach of collaboration to help aid the one of the bedrocks of our community, private, nonprofit organizations.

- Thank you to the Indonesian Community Connect, for continuing to spotlight Somersworth's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Your recent donation of bilingual children's books, will aid in reinforcing our Hilltopper values of celebrating our rich cultural ethnic heritage and history.

- Welcome to the Hilltop City Cumberland Farms located on Route 108. I enjoyed being part of your grand opening festivities. Thank you for already becoming active members within our community. Now through December 19th, for every fountain soda, coffee, or slushy sold Cumberland Farms will donate \$.10 cents to Somersworth Youth Connection. Get you morning and afternoon caffeine fix on at Cumberland Farms on Route 108 and help continue to support our national recognized program, Somersworth Youth Connection.

- I had the pleasure of visiting several of our local merchants, including New Hampshire Pewter, during the annual small business Saturday. Help keep our Somersworth economy "On the Move!" this holiday season by shopping and purchasing in Hilltopper based businesses.

- I was moved when I recently attended and participated in the recent public forum sponsored by the Somersworth Prevention Coalition. The purpose of the forum was to continue to seek meaningful solutions to address the current opioid crisis. The forum generated heart filled discussion and ideas as how we as Hilltoppers can continue to aid those in need of breaking the addiction cycle, while creating policies which will continue to hold those accountable who choose to poison our community and its citizens. While there is no single step which will resolve this crisis. It is only through working together in a collaborative approach, and utilizing the adopted master plan of addressing the opioid and addition crisis, that we will continue to make gains and keep our community and its citizens safe.

- Please help continue to make the holidays bright for all Hilltoppers by supporting the Fire Departments annual toy drive. I've already made my annual donation and call upon all Hilltoppers to help make this Christmas and holiday season magic for all young Hilltoppers. Cash or toy donations may be dropped off at the Fire Department now through December 15th. On December 15th get into the holiday spirit by helping to wrap toys at the Fire Department starting at 6pm until all the toys have been wrapped. Thank you to the Fire Department for sponsoring this annual event, and thank you to all Hilltoppers for your donations. We are truly a community of caring.

- Congratulations to Michelle Proulx for completing your 5k race on Thanksgiving Day. Through your efforts you have inspired me and all Hilltoppers, and have brought to life the phrase "Yes you can!"

- I was delighted to see the work in progress of the mural being created by various students at Somersworth High School. The mural which will be unveiled and permanently displaced in the CTC center, as part of the 125th celebration of Somersworth gaining status of our City. The mural not only represents the cities "Proud Past and Bright Future", but the tremendous artistic talent of the students of the Somersworth High School and CTC center. I cannot wait to see the finished product and officially unveil it, as we begin to celebrate 125 years as a city.

- What a great past Saturday, kicking off the Holiday season Hilltopper style, with the annual Somersworth/Berwick Christmas parade and gala. The event highlighted the strength of our two communities with over an hour long parade. Congratulations to the Christmas parade committee and all participants for another success event, spreading joy and happiness as we begin the holidays.

- The True Spirit of the Holidays is HOPE.

HOPE, that despite our differences, that during this holiday season, as we gather to celebrate our secular and non-secular traditions, we will continue to find the common tread which binds us all, love.

The love of life and our shared human experiences remind us all through the Christmas and Holiday lights which illuminate our houses, business and cities that during the darkest days of winter, that light will overtake darkness, that love will prevail over hate, that peace will overcome war.

- The true spirit of the holidays is HOPE.

HOPE, that the magic which is displayed during the month of December will be planted, cultivated and harvested throughout the year. HOPE that the next generation will move forward with our successes and learn through our failures to create a society where all who embrace democracy, diversity, and tolerance will be celebrated and honored.

As we gather this holiday season and celebrate the return of light, let us celebrate ourselves and honor our traditions through peace and understanding. May the light of centuries shine in your heart and soul; May love grace your household, family and friends. May the spirit of the holidays grace you this season and throughout the year; May you and all who grace this earth, continue to work towards a world where our future generations live in peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

In the spirit of Christmas and the Holidays, the Holiday Peace Flag will fly at Citizens Park through the month of December.

Appointments

- In accordance with **Council Rule 15** the following appointment is being named this evening and does not require Council approval.
- **Richard Brooks** as a member of the **Plaza Commission** with a term to expire in April 30th 2018.

This respectfully concludes my December 4th, 2017 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees-

Councilor Paradis attended a Vision 20/20 Committee meeting on Nov. 15, 2017, they spoke about website updating and social media. Conversations about what still needs to be done on the matrix were talked about at the meeting, with Director Saunders. One big thing is to have signs where parking is available, that has been added to the matrix. It was a subject that was brought up when UNH visited.

Councilor Pepin attended a School Board meeting on Nov 14, 2017. Not much to report other than the High School chorus students gave a presentation to the School Board and wishes other people had the opportunity to see it.

Councilor Pepin attended a COAST bus meeting on Nov 15, 2017, approved an employee handbook. They also went over CIPI items for the next 5 years. COAST helps coordinate transportation for certain parts of the state for non-profit organizations for doctor's appointments etc. Somersworth, Dover and Rochester are not part of this but are looking into being added. For the month of September on Route 1 which is the downtown route 5,179 people used the bus. Year to date from October to now 62,886 people used the bus on Route 1. Route 2 which runs from Rochester to Dover for the month of September 16,396 used the bus. Year to date October to now 196,204 used the bus for Route 2.

City Manager's Report



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, December 1, 2017

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, December 4, 2017
City Council Agenda

6:00 p.m. Workshop
Re: Presentation by Wright Pierce Engineers regarding Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades

Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to be given by Wright Pierce Engineers.

Unfinished Business (under section 13 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 17-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Sell City Tax Deeded Property Located at 20 Green Street.** We received a check from Dr. Bennett through his attorney, Brian Barrington, for \$53,625.99 to exercise his re-purchasing rights last week. This is for past taxes, interest & penalties and other City costs such as legal. I executed the deed on Thursday which renders this action moot. In light of this development, the Council will need to reject this action item.

New Business (under section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 2-18 City Council Meeting Schedule for 2018.** Mayor Dana Hilliard has proposed the following 2018 Council regular meeting calendar. City Council should consider waiving Council Rules to act on the meeting calendar this evening.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 18–18 Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH to provide Engineering and Design Services for Various Complete Streets Projects.** After a series of review by City Staff and the Council’s Public Works & Environment Committee, Wright Pierce Engineering is being recommended to prepare design and bid documents for three (3) City “*Complete Streets*” road projects.
- B. Resolution No. 19-18 Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth.**

Other

- A. City Council Certification of Return of Votes for the November 7, 2017 Municipal Election.**
- B. Re: Resolution No. 25-17 – Purchase & Sales Agreement with Chinburg Properties for the Re-use of the Former Hilltop Elementary School**

Property. Eric Chinburg plans to attend the meeting. His attached email to Director Shanna Saunders sets some of the frame work as to why he wants to close on the property this month (HTC tax credits). I have also included copies of the Resolution passed by Council and an excerpt from the signed Purchase & Sales that indicates 30 apartments being proposed and some civic space. Mr. Chinburg has pointed out that although he may still be able to financially keep his original plan for apartments, there may be a need to do a more “mixed use development”, or an all business type of re-use for this facility to make it financially feasible.

City Manager’s Items (under section 10 of Agenda)

A. Informational Items.

- 1. CIP Fiscal Year 2019-2024.** In accordance with the City Charter, I hereby submit a proposed Capital Improvement Program for City Council consideration. I look forward to Council direction for future review and discussion opportunities.
- 2. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Preparation.** Next week I will be directing City Department Heads to begin their preliminary Budget requests for FY 2019-2020. I certainly welcome any specific Council direction as I prepare the City Manager’s Proposed Budget for submittal to the Mayor & Council by the Charter deadline of March 15.
- 3. Former Breton’s Cleaners (1 Winter Street).** We have submitted our Grant application to the US EPA for an additional \$200,000 in Brownfield’s Grant Funds to complete the clean-up of this site. Presently, the building has been demolished and the site buttoned-up. We will also be requesting an extension of the Grant deadline to allow Credere to examine soil test results and complete their final report as required by NH DES.

4. Grants.

- a)** Unless directed otherwise by City Council I will be authorizing a Grant application by the Fire Department for a Homeland Security Grant to purchase equipment in the amount of approximately \$6,000 for Best Practice equipment in responding to active threat situations. This is a companion Grant similar to the one awarded to the Police Department. Attached is a memorandum from Chief Hoyle that further explains this Grant program.
- b)** Attached are copies of memorandums from our various Department Heads that summarize our efforts over the last twelve (12) months or so to pursue Grant funds for our Community. I am pleased to inform you that we have secured over \$1M and are awaiting word on an

additional \$1M in Grant Funds. My thanks are extended to all of our Department Heads and their Staff for these tremendous efforts.

B. Attachments.

1. City Attorney Certifications
2. Department Head Reports
3. Letter from School Board Chairman, Don Austin to Mayor and City Council Regarding Land Acquisition - Mayor has referred the topic to the Joint Commission of City Council and School Board

Upcoming Meeting & Events

- a. **Somersworth/Berwick Christmas Parade.** Saturday, December 2nd at 2:30 p.m.
- b. **Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast.** Friday, Dec. 8th from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at Kelley's Row. Speakers will be Director Shanna Saunders and Somersworth Now, Jenne Holmes.
- c. **Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt.** Friday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Somersworth High School football field.
- d. **Senior Holiday Tea.** Thursday, December 14th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Flanagan Center.
- e. **Municipal Election Inauguration.** January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nomination - Requires Council Confirmation Vote

Richard Brooks, as a member of the Somersworth Plaza Commission with a term to expire on April 30, 2018.

LAY ON TABLE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 17-18 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SELL CITY TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 20 GREEN STREET

Councilor Witham, moved for the adoption of Resolution 17-18, seconded by Councilor Paradis.

Councilor Messier thought it needed to be denied as the property was sold back to the original owner.

City Manager that is correct. What the City is asking is that the Council defeats the Resolution so that it can be taken off the books.

Resolution No. 17-18 is defeated, with a 0-9 roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2-18 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2018.

Somersworth, NH
December 4, 2017

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT, in accordance with Chapter 3.7 of the City Charter which provides that the City Council's "regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by ordinance..." and Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.8.2 of the City Ordinances which also provides that the "City Council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise agreed on by a majority of the members of the Council" that the City Council Meeting schedule for 2018 shall be as follows:

- Tuesday, January 16th
- Monday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 20th
- Monday, March 5th and Monday, March 19th
- Monday, April 2nd and Monday, April 16th
- Monday, May 7th and Monday, May 21st
- Monday, June 4th and Monday, June 18th
- Monday, July 23rd
- Monday, August 13th
- Tuesday, September 4th and Monday, September 17th
- Monday, October 1st and Monday, October 15th
- Monday, November 5th
- Monday, December 3rd

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Sponsored by:

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Witham makes a motion to suspend rules to allow for a second reading of Ordinance No. 2-18, seconded by Councilor Pepin.

A second reading of Ordinance No. 2-18 is read by the Clerk.

Councilor Messier moves for its adoption, seconded by Councilor Paradis. Ordinance No. 2-18 passes with a 9-0 vote by roll call.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-18 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT PIERCE ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, NH TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMPLETE STREETS PROJECTS.

Somersworth, NH
December 4, 2017

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023 contains recommendations for various complete streets projects, and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council supports the concept of having these projects shovel ready when funding becomes available, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 adopted budget contains an appropriation for engineering and design services for complete streets projects on Constitutional Way, Cemetery Road, and a portion of Main Street, and

WHEREAS, City staff requested proposals from qualified engineering consultants to provide these services, and

WHEREAS, City staff interviewed a number of the consultants that responded and developed a list of two finalists, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Environment Committee received presentations from the two finalists and recommends awarding a contract to Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Wright Pierce Engineers at a cost not to exceed \$384,270 (Three Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Dollars) to provide engineering and design services for various complete streets projects and take any and all other such actions relative to these projects determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors:

Dale R. Sprague
David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Jennifer Soldati

Approved:
City Attorney

Councilor Witham makes a motion to suspend rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 18-18, seconded by Councilor Sprague.

A second reading of Resolution No. 18-18 is read by the Clerk.

Councilor Sprague moves for its adoption, seconded by Councilor Pepin. Resolution No. 18-18 passes with a 9-0 vote by roll call.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-18 PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY DIVERSITY MONTH IN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH.

Somersworth, NH
December 4, 2017

WHEREAS, January 15, 2018 will mark the 89th birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the “dream” of equal treatment, is the foundation of human rights and democratic values; and

WHEREAS, our nation has worked towards the goal of fulfillment of this commitment for over 242 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has become a model of a community which embraces and promotes tolerance and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to the values of equality and liberty stated in the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, New Hampshire State Constitution and City charter; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that freedom, liberty and equality must be protected for all citizens and that “from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Somersworth encourages all residents, including community groups, schools and institutions to continue to work toward fulfilling Dr. King’s dream of the elimination of all barriers to the fulfillment of equal opportunities and human rights; and

The City of Somersworth calls upon all citizens to reflect during this month on the message of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commit themselves throughout the year to join the fight for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and disadvantage and to ensure that everyone has the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace; and

The Somersworth Mayor and City Council hereby declare that January, 2018 be Diversity and Tolerance Month in the City of Somersworth and that the City of Somersworth along with all of its citizens hereby recommits itself to the fulfillment of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Dream.”

Sponsored by:

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Councilors:

David A. Witham

Dale R. Sprague

Nancie Cameron

Jessica Paradis

Martin Pepin

Jennifer G. Soldati

Martin P. Dumont

Jonathan McCallion

Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Witham makes a motion to suspend rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 19-18, seconded by Councilor Paradis.

A second reading of Resolution No. 19-18 is read by the Clerk.

Councilor Paradis moves for its adoption, seconded by Councilor Cameron. Resolution No. 19-18 passes with a 9-0 vote by roll call.

Other:

A: City Council certification of return of votes for November 7, 2017 Municipal Election
- Votes are certified.

After no discussion from the Council, the return of the votes is certified with a 9-0 vote.

C. Discussion vote presentation by Wright Pierce Engineers.

Councilor Witham updates the Council that two engineers were here tonight; they have completed their certification of the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility. They looked at needs of the Wastewater Treatment Facility in terms of addressing flow, loading issues and as well as long term sustainability. They had some immediate improvements which we should be addressing immediately for 2017-2018, that was around \$4.2 million dollars. As heard in the workshop presentation prior to the City Council meeting there are a number of high priority items that should be addressed in 2018-2019 with another \$6.3 million, which brings it up over the \$10 million dollar mark. Councilor Witham thinks the Council should give Manager Belmore some direction.

Manager Belmore clarified that the Council has already approved the Resolution to hire Wright Pierce Engineers to complete the work. A new Resolution or a modified Resolution will be brought back to Council to further develop the plan.

Councilor Messier supports doing phase 1 and phase 2 that comes to a total \$10.5 million.

Councilor Dumont would like to look at the actual financing and bonding on the impact of our current rate for tax payers.

Councilor Messier for clarification they are not going for a bond, going to the State revolving loan fund. It doesn't affect the tax rate; it only affects the user rate.

Councilor McCallion looking at the latest and greatest, could they redesign and not just replace the existing. Operating costs down the road is his concern.

Councilor Witham this will likely be a bonded project, the cost would be bared by the rate payers not necessarily on the tax rate. Remind Council that we went through an exercise in the Finance and Public Works & Environment Committee where we looked at current wastewater rates and made modifications.

With no objection from Council the City Manager has consensus to move forward with drafting the first proposals.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Kenneth Vincent, of 19 Vincent Way, Ward 2, gives thanks to both Councilors Paradis and Soldati for their dedication to Community. It means a lot to commit to your time to your community. Both Councilors have been involved with numerous Committees. Thank you to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Paradis thanked Richard Gagnon, for your efforts for the City to recognize the Winter Solstice and thanked the Mayor for recognizing that. Thanked the Department

Heads for their efforts in the grants that the City has received. Huge heartfelt thank you to Councilor Soldati, feels that we have a lot in common and has helped lead the way for her. I appreciate your lifetime of achievement.

Councilor Soldati remembers when she moved here in 2005, a year later hired by the Chamber and had to speak in front of City Council. She is proud of the City. She would like to see more Women involved. Thanked Councilor Paradis for her friendship. It has been a wonderful time here on the City Council.

Councilor Pepin stated that being on the City Council has fringe benefits of getting to meet some great people. Councilors Soldati and Paradis are great people and are now friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Councilor Dumont stated that Councilors Paradis and Councilor Soldati are two great people, good Councilors. They exemplify courage. This body needs the female influence, he feels like Councilor Cameron could use some support. Kudos to Kim Taylor Dir of Rec Services from Berwick ME and Beth Poulin, Somersworth Parade Committee Chairwoman. The community support participation was large and was a pleasure to see residents out enjoying the parade. Special gratitude for sponsors; significant sponsor this year was Service Credit Union. Post 69 American Legion and Dumais & Ferland accounting firm were also sponsors.

Councilor McCallion gave kudos to the Parade Committee and volunteers. Years ago it used to be a small loop and to what it has turned into today, he is proud of how it has evolved. He appreciates the different perspective that Councilors Paradis and Councilor Soldati gave. He thanked them for their service. Voters thank you for coming out on Nov 7th for the municipal election. Even though it was a non-presidential election he thinks the turnout was decent. Also, a thank you to the City Staff Department heads. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Councilor Messier thanked Councilors Soldati and Paradis, he wished them good luck and to enjoy themselves with their spare time. Christmas Parade and Gala walked the route for the first time this year. He was quite impressed with the number of people at the parade. Regarding the Toy Drive for the Fire Department, cans someone get back to me and tell me what age group is lacking gifts so that he can get some toys to donate. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Councilor Witham thanked the Department Heads, he feels he can be pretty demanding at times with things that he feels needs to be done, a special thanks to Director Bobinsky because his list seems to be the longest for him. Downtown décor is done by Public Works they do a lot of behind the scenes decorating. Police led parade and Fire Department comes at the end for their recognition. It would be nice to recognize Public Works as well, so please thank them. Thanks to the Guidance Department in High School regarding college applications etc with his Son in his senior year. Guidance Counselor Dennis Pelletier completed the letter of recommendation on Sunday and sent him an email to let him know that it was done. Pleased to see parking enforcement officer out in the Community now. Councilor Soldati and Councilor Paradis it has been a pleasure

serving with both of you. He felt he could disagree and they could still be respectful. Thanked them for their time and learned a lot from both. Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year!

Councilor Sprague congratulated the Christmas Parade Committee. A lot of volunteers and City staff picking up trash, putting up lights, setting up stages. It was nice to have the live feed of parade. It was great to walk in front of the parade and then be able to see the numerous floats. He would like to state that he publicly stands behind Richard Gagnon with his efforts with the Atheist flag. Appreciates him moving it to January and thinks it was a wise decision because of it being diversity month. Councilor Soldati and Councilor Paradis good luck, congratulations and enjoy some time off. Two words come to mind when he thinks of both Councilors; dedication to your family and to this City, The second word that comes to mind is courage, speaking what you did tonight takes courage in your opening comments takes courage. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Councilor Cameron speaks to Councilor Soldati she remembers helping Soldati at a Chamber after hour's event, who would have thought after that event this is where she would be. Thanked them for their friendship and guidance. In a car ride back from Manchester after first becoming a Council Woman, in that car ride they gave her the courage to share her story about 'Me Too.' Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONPUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor